

Joshua Tree National Park

Wildflower Report



Updated

Weekly wildflower reports are posted on the park website, <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/blooms.htm>, throughout the peak season (typically mid-February through early May). Add your observations and photos of wildflowers to the Joshua Tree National Park Wildflower Watch project using the free app iNaturalist, or check it out online at <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/joshua-tree-national-park-wildflower-watch>.

Cottonwood

South Entrance to Fried
Liver Wash



Look for Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Calico (*Loeseliastrum matthewsii*), Barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Canterbury bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), Desert poppies (*Eschscholzia spp.*), and Purple mat (*Nama demissum*) in the Southern end of the park.



This Desert iguana certainly seems to be enjoying wildflower season here in Joshua Tree National Park as he goes scavenging for tasty flowers in a Palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*).



Due to prolonged drought and a hot winter, many flowers, such as Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), have had a shorter season than usual.



Sand blazing star (*Mentzelia involucrata*) in full bloom.

Mastodon Peak Trail

Three mile hike
beginning in the
Cottonwood
Campground



Indigo bush (*Psoralea argophylla* var. *simplicifolia*)



Desert pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*) adds some variety to the trail.

Queen Valley

Includes the Barker Dam, Split Rock, Pine City, Wall Street Mill, and Desert Queen Mine Trails



Desert globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) can be found growing sporadically in Queen Valley. Also look for Nipple cactus (*Mammillaria tetrancistra*), Blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*), and Mojave aster (*Xylorhiza tortifolia*).



Hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*) continues to be amongst the most abundant producers of wildflowers in the Queen Valley area.

North Entrance to Jumbo Rocks



Yellow cups (*Camissonia brevipes*), Arizona lupine (*Lupinus arizonicus*), Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and Fremont pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*) can all be found in abundance near Live Oak and the Contact Mine parking area.



While exploring the Northern part of the park, also look for White rhatany (*Krameria* sp.), Wallace's woolly daisies (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), Canterbury bells (*Phacelia campanularia* ssp.), Desert senna (*Senna armata*) and Sand blazing star (*Mentzelia involucreata*).

Sheep Pass to Cap Rock



Single-leaved onion (*Allium parishii*), Desert senna (*Senna armata*), and Fremont pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*) decorate the landscape near Sheeps Pass.



Blazing stars (*Mentzelia ssp.*), Sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*), Desert senna (*Senna armata*), and Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*), add a splash of color to the desert.



The unusual watercolor fruits of the Spiny hop sage (*Grayia spinosa*) are a treat to see this time of year.

Black Rock Canyon

Joshua Lane,
Yucca Valley, CA



Though technically not a wildflower, botany enthusiasts should keep an eye out for the strange fruit of the Spiny cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*) on the High View and West Side Loop Trails.



Purple mat (*Nama demissum*), Wallace's woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), Little gold poppy (*Eschscholzia minutiflora*), Cheesebush (*Ambrosia salsola*), Wishbone bush (*Mirabilis laevis*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and Desert mariposa lily (*Calochortus kennedyi*) make Black Rock Canyon a must for fans of flowers.

Indian Cove

Indian Cove Road,
Twentynine Palms, CA



While hiking, scrambling, or setting up camp, you may come across some Ground cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*) on the desert floor.



Silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*), Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Brown-eyed primrose (*Chylismia claviformis*), Hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*), and Barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*) are in bloom.

Let Them Grow

Leave wildflowers undisturbed for others to enjoy. Joshua Tree was first established as a national monument in 1936 to protect desert vegetation that was being carried away and planted in Los Angeles gardens. Today, help us continue in our mission “to preserve unimpaired” the beautiful plants of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts: don’t pick wildflowers.